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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/982,127	10/18/2001	Gary J. Sullivan	MS1-945US	9337

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EXAMINER

NATNAEL, PAULOS M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2614

DATE MAILED: 09/21/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/982,127

Applicant(s)

SULLIVAN, GARY J.

Examiner

Paulos M. Natnael

Art Unit

2614

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 July 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 8-18 and 34-37 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 8-13 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 14-18 and 34-37 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Due to the newly found reference of Yui as applied below, the previously indicated allowability of claims 34-37 has been withdrawn. Examiner regrets the inconvenience the might case the Applicant.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims **14-18 and 34-37** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yui, U.S. 6,493,008.

Considering claims 14 and 34, Yui discloses a multi-screen display system and method that provides a multi-screen display system, which unifies the control relating to each image on a multi-screen. The multi-screen display system receives images from a plurality of image sources, and displays the received images at the same time on the multi-screen of a display device. In the multi-screen display system, a multi-screen control part determines a type of each image source and a display region where a multi-screen control cursor is positioned on the multi-screen. The multi-screen control part

determines a role of the multi-screen control cursor in the display region according to the type of the image source of an image displayed in the display region where the multi-screen control cursor is positioned. The multi-screen control part controls generation of the multi-screen control cursor and the operation thereof so that the multi-screen control cursor can play the determined role.” (abstract of the disclosure)

Furthermore, Yui teaches that a “layout determining means for determining a layout of display regions for arranging the inputted images on the multi-screen of the display means, cursor control means for generating a multi-screen control cursor for inputting commands on the multi-screen and controlling operation thereof, and display region identifying means for identifying a display region on the multi-screen of the display means in which the multi-screen control cursor is positioned...”(col. 1, line 60 thru col. 2, line 1)

Yui does not specifically disclose whether or not the regions are “associated with a particular type of video display device”.

However, identifying the display region on the screen and the display type is well known in the art. In that regard, many systems do identify in advance whether, for example, the display device is the 4:3 type or 16:9 one and determine accordingly where in the screen to display a particular object or image. Therefore, it would have been obvious to the skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Yui by providing this well-known method of identifying in advance the type of display device.

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Claims 15,16,35 are met by the display screens or devices illustrated on figures 6,7, 10 or 12.

As to claims 17 and 36, the claimed identifying an active region is met by the disclosure on col. 15, lines 23-31 wherein that each object has properties such as a position, size etc in order to identify it.

Regarding claim 18, see rejection of claim 14.

Regarding claim 37, see rejection of claims 17 and 36.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 8-13 are allowed.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Paulos M. Natnael whose telephone number is (571) 272-7354. The examiner can normally be reached on 10:00am - 6:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Miller can be reached on (571)272-7353. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paulos M. Nathael', is written over the end of the paragraph.

Paulos M. Nathael
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2614

Pmn
September 18, 2005